

Greetings from the President

Dear Young Scientists,

Welcome to the 7th Young Scientists Meeting of the Julius Kühn-Institut at the JKI head quarters in Quedlinburg.

The “Wissenschaftsrat” being the independent evaluation board of the German Government for federal research institutions visited the JKI this spring. The JKI has been positively evaluated. In the evaluation report the commission states that ‘the JKI is very committed to mentoring young scientists’ and that ‘due to the attractive working environment, there are no problems recruiting new PhD students.’ You, as young scientists, have contributed to this success by organizing and attending the Young Scientists Meeting. I would like to express my gratitude to the members of the organizing board for their efforts and for the time they invested so that the tradition of the Young Scientists Meeting is continued and the concept of the event is carried into the future.



Prompted by the feedback from last year’s attendees, the classic program of talks and poster sessions has been modified. Each institute will be introduced briefly before its scientists present their research projects. Also the poster presenters are facing a new challenge this year, having to perform a series of so called “elevator pitches”. In concise two minutes each topic has to be presented without showing numbers, graphs or results. In times of “science slams” and “pecha kucha nights” audiences favor more popular science presentations. All contributions will be in English, as a practical training for the international conferences, you will be attending in the future.

Two keynote lectures complete the program. Friedrich Fauser from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology talks about techniques in plant breeding, a central topic at the JKI. Steffen Kecke, head of the JKI data processing department, gives an overview of electronic resources and data collections, valuable tools for your research.

I am convinced that all participants will personally benefit from the NWF by expanding their knowledge and by increasing their presentation skills. In addition, you get the chance to get to know each other during two joint evening events and expand your personal network, an important base for your future professional life.

I hope you all enjoy your stay at Quedlinburg and return home enriched by the experience and inspired both scientifically and socially.

Quedlinburg, November 2014



Dr. Georg F. Backhaus
President of the JKI